

CLAIMS

1. Method of configuring a business process for scheduling, the business process comprising a plurality of activities, each activity comprising at least one of a start date type and a stop date type; the activities being in a time relationship to each other; wherein the business process is freely configurable with respect to the plurality of activities and with respect to the time relationships of the activities to each other.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein a technical ID is associated with an activity or with a date type.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein a text is associated with an activity or with a date type, the text being descriptive for the activity or for the date type.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein time units are assigned to specific date types, the time units being freely configurable for each date type.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein an activity can be modeled as a plurality of subprocesses.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein a sub-process comprise a plurality of activities.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein a decision whether or not a delegation is invoked is during run-time of the scheduling.
8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said service functions being usable for determination of time zone, calendar and duration of an activity.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one service function is assigned to at least one activity, the service function being usable, during scheduling, for determining start date and/ or finish date of the at least one activity.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one delegation scheme is assigned to at least one activity, the delegation the service function being usable for invoking, during scheduling, an external application for determining start date and/ or finish date of the at least one activity.
11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the activities and their time relationship are representable as a network of nodes and edges, each node representing one of the plurality of activities, and each edge connecting a pair of nodes and representing a predecessor-successor relationship of the activities represented by the respective pair of nodes.
12. The method of Claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is produced based on the configured business process, whereby the scheduling scheme is a set of meta data descriptive of how the individual activities are to be processed within scheduling.
13. The method of Claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of duration, calendar, and time zone.
14. The method of Claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of service function, and delegation process model.
15. A method of configuring a production process for simulating, the production process comprising a plurality of element, each element comprising at least one of a start date type and a stop date type; the steps being in a time relationship to each other; wherein the production process is freely configurable with respect to the plurality of element and with respect to the time relationships of the element to each other.